QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933 August 2015

Presidents Corner

Ah summer. As many of you know I live in Emeryville which generally has lower temperatures than Marin. Moreover I grew up in and my mom still lives in Tiburon which in typically not as warm as the rest of Marin. For the last week summer has arrived in Emeryville. It has been hotter than the plate of a 1625. That said we are about to enter September. Mostly people consider the Labor Day weekend the end of summer and it is almost upon us. September 23 is the autumnal equinox and our thoughts must turn to a new season.

We still have several public service events and a lot of warm weather yet to come. But we also have to think about autumn. Once again I remind you that there is still time to volunteer to work one of our events. On September 19th we have the club picnic. This year we will return to Piper Park. We will provide burgers, dogs, condiments and of course bellywash. If you want something more upscale you can bring your own meat and cook it on the grill. We also encourage you to bring side dishes and desserts. All are welcome and it is a great opportunity to meet other club members. I look forward to seeing you there. Check out the information on our website at http://w6sg.net/site/?p=4074

The change in the seasons also means thinking about elections. Nothing scary like the presidential primary season, no negative ads, no super pacs, no robo-calls but elections none the less. At the last board meeting we created a nominating committee for board of directors. The committee includes Doug Slusher KF6AKU, John Boyd KE6ORI and Ed Essick K6ELE.

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What's Happening in Radio

On the Air

ARRL News

Pampanito Report

Public Service

Board Minutes

From the Editor

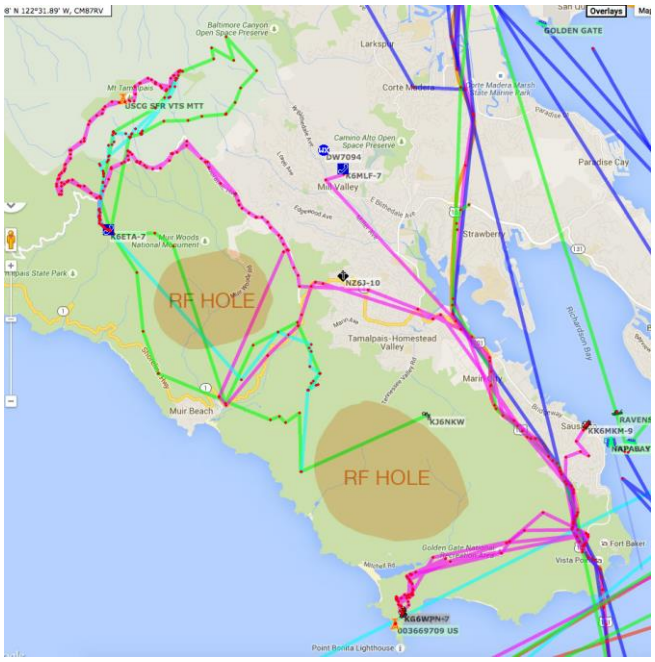
Ed Essick, K6ELE

APRS and Public Service

Some of you may know that members of our club are working to include APRS for our public service events. I hope to include an article on the details of the APRS project in an upcoming QSA5.

Steve Fischer, K6ETA, Michael Fischer, K6MLF, and Rob Rowlands, N6ZJ, have been working with other club members to make APRS a part of our public service coverage. During the MCBC Dirt Frodo public service event on August 30th Michael Sexton, KJ6NKW provided his APRS tracker that was used by the sweep on the course. (See the coverage of the event in this issue of QSA5.)

This is the APRS coverage map of the event, with the areas noted that had issues.



For those of you that think the board is a group of good ole boys this election should be more interesting. John Boyd KE6ORI your vice president and I will be termed out of office so if you want to stage a electoral coup now is the time. Phil Dunlap K6PHD and Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ have there terms ending but can still run for reelection. I urge you step up and put your hat in the ring for election to the board. You can contact any of the members of the nominating committee or you can contact me. I will forward your name to the committee. You can reach me at WA6UDS@W6SG.NET

Happy equinox
Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS

Whats Happening in Radio

California ARES Volunteers Support Wildfire Response

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers in Butte County, California, responded on July 29 to a Red Cross request to support communication at an evacuation shelter in Oroville during the Swedes Fire. Butte County Emergency Coordinator Scott Petersen, KE6VUS, said several ARES operators were called via a newly developed telephone tree. Volunteers used the W6SCR repeater, initially for a logistics net and later for point-to-point contacts.

Assistant EC Dale Anderson, KK6EVX, was on site in Oroville within an hour of callout at 1600 local, Peterson said, adding, "he had to travel a bit to get there." Peterson arrived on the scene at 1845 local, and the facility was staffed until 2130 local, at which time the communications section was released from service and the gear broken down and packed. Peterson said the Butte County ARES communications van was not utilized for this event. In all, seven ARES members participated in the activation.

According to Cal Fire, the Swedes Fire -- one of many in California in recent days -- burned over 400 acres, destroying two residences and 14 other structures. That fire was contained as of August 3, although fire crews remain in the area.

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What is this?



On The Air

Contest Calendar

Russian RTTY WW Contest 0000Z-2359Z, 9/5
All Asian DX Contest, Phone 0000Z, 9/55 to 2400Z, 9/6
ARRL September VHF Contest 1800Z, 9/12 to 0300Z, 9/14
Washington State Salmon Run 1600Z, 9/19 to 0700Z, 9/20 and 1600Z-2400Z, 9/20
Maine QSO Party 1200Z, 9/26 to 1200Z, 9/27
Texas QSO Party 1400Z, 9/26 to 0200Z, 9/27 and 1400Z-2000Z, 9/27

See complete list at: http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html

ARRL News

Outcome for 5 MHz at WRC-15 Remains in Limbo

With the deadline to submit proposals to World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) now less than 2 months away, it's still unclear how at least one agenda item of importance to the Amateur Radio community will fare. That is agenda item 1.4, which calls on the delegates to consider a secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5 MHz (60 meters). In the US and in most other countries where amateurs have privileges there, ham radio has a set of fixed channels at 5 MHz -- not necessarily the same from one country to the next, although most are common.

As ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, explained last spring following the second Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM), the agenda item 1.4 proposals at the CPM were "all over the map -- ranging from no change to an expansive allocation of 5275-5450 kHz, with explicit suggestions of 15 kHz and 100 kHz in between, and a few methods with details to be filled in later." As Price summarized at the time, "[T]here is a wide divergence of opinion, and no certainty as to the outcome."

In his July 2015 report to International Amateur Radio Union Region 3 Conference to be held this October in Indonesia, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that while the US is "generally supportive" of the Amateur Radio and Amateur-Satellite services at WRCs and in other International Telecommunication Union (ITU) venues, "it has been difficult to gain support from the federal government side for agenda item 1.4." The ARRL is a member of IARU Region 3 to represent the interests of FCC-licensed radio amateurs

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July Whats this?

Anthony Fedanzo, Tom Soskin, Pinky Picard, Bill Stewart, and Steve Wilson correctly identified the spark gap.



1907 Spark Gap with zinc electrodes.

Pampanito Report

Our schedule DDO got underway on the USS Pampanito around 1030 hours this last Saturday, August 8, 2015. Our station NJ6VT was fired up and running well before 1100 hours. No Traffic was heard for the boat on the Big Rock repeater, so I started HF ops on the 40 meter band. Conditions were very poor and only one QSO was made to the Noontime Net in Washington state. I tried several other HF bands, but they were dead too. The 20 meter band was fair, but there was a North American - European QSO contest on and did not wish to participate and have to fight the pile-ups.

Being the only RO, I spent nearly all my time with the visitors - a big crowd for a change.
At the end of the day it took 30 minutes to get off the boat! Just like in times past!

The next scheduled DDO is set for Saturday, September 12, 2015. I could use some help, so let me know if you can help out.

73,

Den Regan, K6ZJU
CO Pampanito A.R.C. NJ6VT
USS Pampanito, SS-383
Pier 45, Shed "A"
San Francisco



residing in Guam; the Northern Marianas; American Samoa; Baker, Howland, Jarvis, and Wake islands; Palmyra Atoll, and Kingman Reef.

When he submitted the report to IARU R3 in July, Sumner had said that the best ARRL could hope for in the US position was a 25 kHz secondary allocation at 5 MHz, "and only then if this becomes the CITEL Inter-American Proposal (IAP)," he explained. CITEL completed its work earlier this month and will put forward an IAP for a 175 kHz secondary allocation at 5275-5450 kHz, with support by up to a dozen countries. That's not a proposal the US or Canada could support, however. Sumner noted that as of now, only one formal proposal for agenda item 1.4 has been submitted, and it calls for no change at 5250-5450 kHz. It came from the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC), the regional telecommunications organization made up primarily of the former Commonwealth of Independent States countries of which Russia is the largest.

Other regional telecommunication organizations still have not submitted formal proposals. Sumner said this week that it's not possible to predict what might happen at the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) meeting in a few weeks. CEPT is the umbrella organization for 48 European nations.

"We appreciate the strong support from so many Latin American and Caribbean administrations and remain hopeful that a favorable consensus can be reached in Geneva in November," Sumner said.

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Marin County Bicycle Coalition's Dirt Fondo August 30th



Tom Boss of MCBC with Michael Sexton, KJ6NKW



Andy, KJ6MRL, installing APRS tracker for sweep



Brett Stewart, K6BPS, and Don Magdanz, KI6MZX at Muir Beach Mailboxes



Cardiac Hill- Stanton and Judi Gleason, KD6SWU, and Jim Greene, KG6RZO



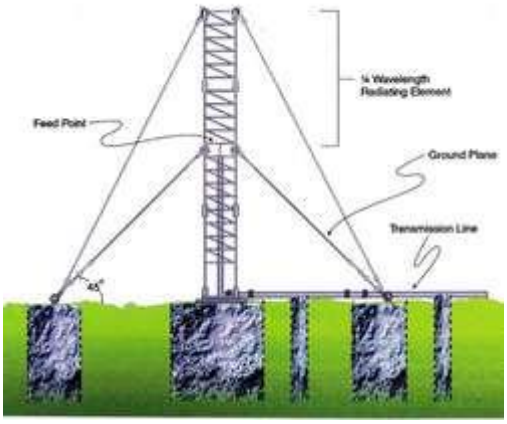
East Peak water stop- Doug Slusher, KF6AKU

Vertical Dipole

Time and frequency standard station WWV's resurrected 25 MHz signal -- now back on the air for more than a year after going silent in 1977 -- is once again transmitting on a vertical dipole from its original antenna and location. The 25 MHz signal returned to the air on an "experimental basis" in April 2014, and it's been transmitting ever since. The WWV vertical dipole is not something you'd likely find in the average ham radio antenna farm.

"The antenna the 25 MHz [transmitter] is on right now is the original antenna it was on in 1977," Matt Deutch, N0RGT, WWV's lead electrical engineer, told ARRL. "When the 25 [MHz transmitter] was shut down [that year], the radiating section was removed and tossed in the bone yard, and a new longer section put on the tower to make it a 15 MHz stand-by antenna."

Deutch said that when WWV first reintroduced the 25 MHz broadcast in 2014, it used a broadband monopole. It was later decided to use that antenna for WWV's 2.5 MHz stand-by transmitter, though. "So, we decided to rebuild the 25 MHz antenna," he recounted. "A few weeks ago the boys dug the 25 MHz radiating section out of the mud in the bone yard and rebuilt the 25 MHz antenna, so that it looks identical to what it looked like in 1977."



A depiction of a WWV vertical dipole antenna. [Courtesy of Matt Deutch, N0RGT]



The WWV campus in Fort Collins, Colorado. [Courtesy of NIST]

Deutch said the 25 MHz WWV vertical dipole now is coupled to its own, dedicated transmitter, radiating 2.5 kW "with near zero watts reflected," he added, and modeling has showed that the dipole exhibits a lower angle of radiation than the broadband monopole did. "There is no automatic backup transmitter for 25 MHz at this time," Deutch added. The 25 MHz WWV signal had been operating at about 1 kW for the past 16 months.

Deutch has said that WWV has received reports on the 25 MHz signal from across the Atlantic. The 25 MHz transmission not only provides another option to check your frequency calibration or the exact time, it also can serve to indicate the state of propagation on 12 and 10 meters. The 25 MHz broadcast includes the same information transmitted on all other WWV frequencies and at the same level of accuracy.

Located in Fort Collins, Colorado, WWV is operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). WWV has invited listeners' comments and signal reports.

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ARRL President Expects Parity Act House Bill Cosponsorships to Top 100 Soon

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, expects to see the list of cosponsors for the US House version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 -- H.R. 1301 -- top 100 soon after Congress reconvenes following its August recess. As of August 27, the measure had attracted 94 cosponsors. A US Senate version of the bill -- S. 1685 -- also has been introduced. President Craigie again encouraged ARRL members to urge their congressional delegations to cosponsor the bills. Summertime ARRL conventions have also been affording more members a chance to make their voices heard.

"Success doesn't happen by magic," President Craigie said this week. "Offices on Capitol Hill have told us that without constituent expressions of support, cosponsorship -- and, eventually, votes -- will not happen."

The identically worded Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 measures would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions. It would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as "covenants, conditions, and restrictions" (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning

laws and ordinances, and the FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.



At the recent ARRL New England Division Convention, Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB (right, seated), helped visitors to send letters to their US senators and representatives in support of The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015. [Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, photo]

President Craigie said ARRL staff members and officials have helped members to generate well over 4000 letters to Senators and Representatives at ARRL conventions this summer. Local radio clubs have held letter-signing events at their meetings as well. This week, the ARRL forwarded more than 1000 such letters for hand delivery to Capitol Hill.

"But we need a lot more member action now, to push our bills ahead," she added. "We need letters, phone calls, e-mails from every ARRL member to our Senators and Representatives. We need every ARRL member to urge our friends in our clubs, on our nets, and on our social media, to take 5 minutes today to do something critically important for the future of Amateur Radio."

AMSAT is also encouraging its members to urge lawmakers to cosponsor the two bills. The satellite organization has pointed out that reaching orbiting spacecraft via an appropriate ground station is something that may be denied to satellite enthusiasts living in neighborhoods where outside antennas are restricted or prohibited.

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Public Service Signups Still Needed

The following MARS events still need volunteers. Please consider signing up to help out with these.

Dolphin Club Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon- Saturday 10/17

VE Session

Randy Jenkins reported on the recent VE session at the club house.

Congratulations to the following amateurs for upgrading to Amateur Extra:

K6BPS, Brett Stewart
W6MTS, Tom Soskin
KJ6ARL, 'Skip' Anthony Fedanzo

We also had two people get their Technician license:
Kevin Luke
Mark Burton

Thanks to the VE Team:
WA6BXV, Jerry Foster
KG6TCJ, Dave Hodgson
AA6XZ, Sharon Primbsch
KA6BQF, Randy Jenkins



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Service Training Community
EST 1933
AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 19TH 2015 MARS CLUB PICNIC

Picnic at Piper Park

252 Doherty Dr, Larkspur, CA 94939

11:00 a.m-3 p.m

Piper Park in Larkspur

ALL AMATEURS ARE WELCOME

FREE FOOD ! Club Will Provide Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Beverages, and Charcoal.

Please Bring a Salad or Dessert to Share

RSVP is NOT Required, but Always Appreciated
picnic@rfhell.com

MARIN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

www.w6sg.net

RSVP: picnic@rfhell.com

September 19, 2015 11:00 – 15:00

General Membership Meeting

Friday, August 07, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 19:44 hrs by Trustee Doug Slusher. [Randy arrived with the food at 19:27.]
A round of introductions was the first order of business. Nineteen members or guests were present.
The agenda was adopted as presented.
The minutes of the June 06 General Membership Meeting were approved as published.

Trustee Slusher reported on the actions at the July 07 Board of Director's Meeting. The Board approved purchase of banners for public service events, and proposed a date for the Club Picnic, September 19.

Fun with Ham Radio – There were two reports.
Doug reported on a new member, David Chaney, KK6AZR.
Secretary Jenkins reported on correspondence. There were bills and junk mail.

Treasurer Dave Hodgson was not present and submitted a written report for July showing $3,355.00 income, $1,260.05 expenses, and total assets of $59,784.49. Doug reported on Dave's progress.
Membership: 86 for 2015.
Public Service – The next event is MCBC's Dirt Fondo on August 30. There was a discussion about the completed August 1 Marin Century.
The Technical Committee: Doug reported that he will propose a satellite receiver for the simulcast system at the 402 site. There was a discussion of coverage from the site.
Education: Doug asked about interest in teaching a Technician Class. After discussion, several members expressed interest.

VE: Next exam scheduled for Saturday, 8/29.

The Picnic is scheduled for September 19 or 20, depending on a reservation at Piper Park.

Old business: None.

New Business: None.

Doug requested feedback from the members.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 21:12 hrs.

There was no presentation.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the secretary's records on file at the corporate office.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF
ka6bqf@arrl.net
510 526.4089 or 707 557.5521

Treasurer, East Bay Amateur Radio Club
www.ebarc.org

Secretary, VE Liaison & Public Service Co-Coordinator
Marin Amateur Radio Society
www.w6sg.net
PO Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 013, 2015
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VE: Next exam scheduled for Saturday, 8/29.

Membership- We have 86 members.
Public Service – The next event is the MCBC Dirt Fondo on August 30.
Technical- Doug is putting together a proposal about linking site 402 to the Simlulcast System.
Comm Truck- Still rusting and tires are cracked. There was a discussion about the truck, that was tabled until the September meeting, to give time to gather information.
Education – Nothing has been scheduled. There were four people at the August 7 General Meeting who were interested in teaching.
VE Liaison – Randy reported that the next date is Saturday August 29.
Speakers – Doug announced that we have a speaker for the October meeting, Rob Rowlands, NZ6J.
Picnic – The date is set for Saturday, September 19. There was a motion to allocate NTE $400.00 as the budget for the picnic. ORI/AKU/ Pass.
Building Committee – Doug has re-contacted the roofing contractor for an estimate.

Old Business:
Parking Signs – Here. Cal has the materials to make stands.
Auction – The Auction is scheduled for July 11. Talk it up.
Digital Repeater - Curtis will create a survey. A recent review was reported on. There was a discussion of advantages and disadvantages.
John Butler's Radios – The balance of John's radio collection has been donated and delivered.
New Business:

Girl Scouts - There was a communication requesting use of the clubhouse, once-a-month, for a meeting of Girl Scout Adult Leaders, through April 2016. There was a motion to approve the request without cost, subject to the group submitting a Certificate of Insurance. VNT/ORI/Pass

Club Election – Doug reported that Curtis and John will time out this cycle. Phil and Dave can run for another 2-year term. Augie needs to be confirmed as trustee in this cycle. Doug, John, and Ed were appointed as the Nominating and Election Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:38 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF
Secretary, Marin Amateur Radio Society

Marin Amateur Radio Society W6SG.NET, membership@w6sg.netGeneral Membership Meeting is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse at 27 Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Come a little early for pizza or whatever. From highway 101, head west toward Mill Valley on E.
Blithedale. Turn right at the first stop light. Stay right at next stop sign, then turn left at next corner, Shell Road. We are in a two story building, second from the corner on the left directly under the power lines.

Business/Board Meeting meets at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley on the second Thursday at 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend.

Sunday morning informal meeting (aka bible class) meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting around 8am and runs to about 11am. Sometimes we even talk about radio.

The Sunday Emergency nets. The K6GWE emergency VHF net check-in is at 10:15 am on 147.700 (-pl 203.5). This is a directed net and the net control station may operate at the club house or at a member location. Members on the net check-in list that do not check in for three consecutive weeks are removed from the list until they reestablish check-in. Any member can sign up to act as the net control station. See the club website for signup instructions. The W6SG emergency HF net check-in is at 9 am on 3.915 Mh.

Marin Amateur Radio Society Officers and Board Members:

President
Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS 510-595-3494
Vice President
John Boyd KE6ORI 924-04419
Secretary
Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089
Treasure:
Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 707 978-2560
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Cal Anber N6TIA 209-275-5252
Rita Brenden KG6WPN 707-557-5521
Marc Bruvry KF6VNT 492-9292
Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318
Ed Essick K6ELE 456-1715

Other Positions:

Education Chair
Randy Jenkins
VE Liaison
Randy Jenkins
Building Co-Managers
Doug Slusher
Dave Hodgson
Trustee for W6SG
Augie Koehler K0CQL
Trustee for K6GWE
Doug Slusher KF6AKU
Sunday Emergency Nets
Mark Bruvry and other volunteers
DX Representative of ARRL
Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829

Public Service Event Coordinator
Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089
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